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WEST BRIDGEWATER NEWS LETTER

August 1, 1945 Number 16

Salutation to all of you from all of us :

Since last writing, the Old Home Town has endured almost everything in the line of weather - which has chilled us to the bone, drenched us to the skin, and lashed us with violent winds. Can you imagine us tending Victory gardens in red flannel underwear and overcoats; only to discard them hastily for umbrellas and rubber boots? Well, we can't, either, but we wanted to! And now the thermometer climbs blithely into the 90's and sticks there - while we hurl off clothing faster than Gypsy Rose Lee!

We didn't set off many fireworks on the 4th, for two reasons: (1) We didn't have 'em. (2) Wouldn't have dared to, anyway. Because we are beginning to have a suspicion that all the fireworks you are setting off, may account for at least part of nature's wild whims. Couldn't all those explosives you are using create atmospheric upheavals, just as rocks create waves, when thrown into the old swimming hole?

Well, anyway, you are 30 days nearer home and we suppose there are moments when you make practical plans for the future. We hope these plans will include the intention of taking an active interest in Town affairs and all public questions; for towns make the state, and states make the nation. It is very important to have good government all along the line, in order to keep this country great - - and free! The kind of government you get, will depend on you!

We hope you will be able to recognize the difference between the politician who thinks of himself and his own re-election, and the statesman who thinks first of his country. We have been fooled many times on this but your generation should be more astute and much less gullible. You'd better be because in only a few years you will have to take over!

Confidential: A while ago some of us (not all) began to suspect that we had been a bit over-trained on psychoanalyzing you when you get home. When we read that Gen. Eisenhower threw up his hands at the mere suggestion and practically begged us to forget it, we drew one great big breath of relief! And then a thought struck us - - Could it be that WE are the ones who should be psychoanalyzed?!

We wish you could all see the Satevepost of May 26th. The cover design shows a large family bursting from the house with outstretched arms to welcome the returned soldier. This is just exactly how we are going to act when you appear - - and from the kitchen behind us will come the aroma of hot bread, ginger cookies and spice cakes. It's waiting for you - - and may Allah hasten the morning when we can greet you in this way!

"WHAT'S THE SCORE"

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SPORTS

Local baseball fans continue to rave over the fine pitching of Dave "Boo" Ferris of the Red Sox, who has now run his string to 16 wins against only 2 losses. Dave is only 23 years old. He was given a medical discharge from the Service because of asthmatic trouble. His last win put the Sox in a tie for 2nd place.

The Braves have also received national attention because of their star hitter Tommy Holmes. Tommy is leading the league with an average close to 400 and hit safely in 37 consecutive games before going hitless.

Bill Cunningham of the Boston Herald reports an interview with Boxer Max Schmeling in Germany. Schmeling says he wasn't a Nazi - just a sportsman.

Mrs. Florence Woodward Chandler, secretary at Howard High has an automobile - watch out you pedestrians - when you are home on furlough be extra careful.

Mr. Warren Gardner, history teacher at Howard, is director at Camp Squanto, Plymouth, this summer.

Howard High School still shows signs of life during the summer months with repair work going on in all parts of the building.

Mr. Arthur Lord is the new superintendent of the West Bridgewater and Raynham schools. Mr. Charles Taylor resigned to accept a position in Barre, Vermont.

Everybody is working this summer. You former tennis fans could prove this statement for yourselves as the tennis court is empty almost every night in the week. W.B. youths have ambitions.

The Youth Center, under the direction of different groups of students in the high school, is still running every Friday night. Not as many around but a jiving good time is had by all.

At the news of the recent Howard School fire in Brockton some people were really worried when they thought it was dear Old Howard High in W.B.

Howard High School will have many more newcomers this fall since the eighth grade class is now located in the high school.

N E W S A B O U T T O W N

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Troop 1 of the West Bridgewater Boy Scouts of America were honored recently for their outstanding work in collecting paper and rags. At a well-attended meeting in the Town Hall, General Eisenhower medals were awarded to each scout in the troop. A representative of the Federal Salvage Department emphasized the importance of collecting paper salvage. Registration cards were given out and appropriate remarks were made by both Town and Boy Scout officials.

Rev. Frank M. Fellows has resigned from his duties as Pastor of the Baptist church.

At a special night meeting the board of Selectmen appointed Elmer W. Hunt of Charles Street as tree warden and moth superintendent for a period of 60 days to fill the vacancy left by the death of Christopher Read.

A fall wedding for another Howard High girl is in the offing. Miss Edna M. Fisher will become the bride of Harold Morse, formerly of West Bridgewater and now living in East Bridgewater. Mr. Morse served overseas 14 months in the army and is now at home on a medical discharge.

The WELCOME HOME COMMITTEE conducted a very successful auction recently. A good time was had by all and a neat sum added to the treasury. Plans are being perfected for a giant field day to be held the week of Labor Day. The events being planned have just one aim:- to swell the fund to welcome you fellows and girls home, and it sure looks as though you were going to get a right royal welcome. The longer it takes, the more money there will be, but don't let that hold you back - as if it could, huh?

So the ban on fraternizing with the German girls has been lifted? Of course no local girls want to seem selfish but no one ever heard one of them say they wished the ban would be lifted. As one girl was heard to say: "Gee and they are ALL BLONDES TOO!!!".

"S E R V I C E M E N ' S N O T E S"

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Clifton G. Rockwell, Jr., has been promoted from S 1/c to Radarman 3/c. He was graduated from Howard High with the class of 1944, and enlisted in the Navy soon after. He took his boot training at Sampson, New York, and from there went to Florida and Newport, R.I., for training in radar. He is now on active duty in the Pacific.

Pfc Richard Bourne has been sent from Fresno, California, to Camp Crowder, Mo., for seven week's special training. He is on DS from Lemoore Field and hopes to get a furlough home before going back there.

Pvt. Luke M. Boyd, with the 9th Infantry Division of the 3rd Army in Germany, reports that he visited Hitler's ex-stronghold recently on a tour arranged for the GI Joes. The residence has been pretty well shot up by the allies but the view is marvelous. He says Hitler surely must have felt that he was sitting on top of the world when he surveyed the country from his "Eagles' Nest." Well, "the higher they go, the harder they fall" -- Hi, Hitler!!

S 1/c Phyllis Pearson of Matfield Street is back on the job with the WAVES in Washington after a visit with the home folks.

Cadet Nurse Ruth Bemis who has been training at the Massachusetts General and Children's Hospitals and the Boston Lying-In Hospital, is having a three-week vacation at the end of which she will enter an Army Hospital. Her engagement to Harold G. Mayers of Needham, an ex-army ski-trooper, now attending Massachusetts Radio School in Boston, has been announced.

T/Sgt. Elmer G. Harlow, Jr., is now at the army ground and service forces redistribution station at Lake Placid Club, New York.

S 2/c William J. Browne has been honorably discharged from the Naval Reserves after serving as radio man aboard a communications ship in the New Guinea area.

Clyfton Bourne seems to be the only one we have to report about on the GI educational training program. He started M I T last week and reports everything seems to be going swell. He is sporting a wonderful (?) tan and green diagonally striped tie which marks him as an M I T freshman.

Pvt. Philip Baker has been transferred from Fort Bragg to Fort Odell, California.

Pvt. Elwyn Baker who has been serving in Germany reports that he had a three-day furlough and went to Paris. He says he had a swell time. Three Hundred bucks for three days -- hope you got your money's worth, Elwyn!!!

Pfc. William Baker has been transferred from the Quartermaster Corps to the Infantry and is busy training in Swindon, a lovely little town in southern England.

Stewards Mate 2/c William D. Wilbur is having a thirty-day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Florence Pierce of 27 West St., Cochesett. He has made three trips on the Atlantic but expects his fourth will be in another direction.

Cpl. John Manzer writes home: "Was I surprised when I got your letter with Charlie Madan's address. He is stationed about 3 miles up the road and I went to his camp last Sunday. It was my day off and I spent all of it with him. He has a tent of his own, so we had a fine visit together, talking of home, etc. Charlie looks fine and has gained weight. Had dinner with him and went back to my own quarters for the Dick Jergen show. It was great and I hope we get more like it."

T-Cpl. David Johnson is home from Arkansas on a 16-day furlough. David is with Headquarters Co., I.R.T.C. and is a typist in the Personnel office. He wears one battle star, for the Aleutian Islands campaign.

Sgt. Winifred Brown is stationed in Germany, with R.G.Farbin Chemical Co. Her brother, Harrison, is in the Southern Philippines, with the Aviation Corps.

Pvt. Earl Snow now in Germany and his regiment has been awarded the Presidential Citation. He has 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and has seen service in the Hartz Mountains, also Czechoslovakia.

Lt. Col. Henry Weston, well-known Brockton dentist and graduate of Howard High School, has been spending a ten-day leave at his summer home at Silver Beach. He will return to his duties as Charleston, S.C.

Lt. Col. Everett W. Keeler of Cochesett recently met one of Howard High's older graduates, Mr. Samuel Irwin, in Casablanca. "Sammy", one of HH's Basketball stars whose picture still adorns old Howard's walls, is with the Curtis Wright Company in Cairo, Egypt.

The Michalowski family with its six-starred service flag certainly hit the news this month. West Bridgewater is proud to report the awarding of the Bronze Star medal for "meritorious achievement in Dutch New Guinea from Dec. 25, 1944, to Jan. 12, 1945," to S/Sgt Kamile J. Michalowski, a member of the WAC since Jan. 21, 1943. She is now stationed in Manila after serving in Australia, New Guinea and Leyte. Although she already has enough points to obtain a discharge, Kamile prefers to remain in uniform until the Japs have been defeated. Pfc. Pauline Michalowski, WAC, stationed in the South Pacific, and Cpl. Albina G. Michalowski, Marine Corps Women's Reserve, serving in Hawaii. Pfc. Edmund J. Michalowski is stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, and Pvt. Henry J. Michalowski is serving with the Air Corps in Washington. A brother-in-law, Pfc. Stanley J. Dennis, with the 16th Armored Division of Gen. Patton's Third Army, now stationed at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.

S 1/c William Carrigan, from Corpus Christi, Texas, is spending a short leave at his home.

Pfc. Antoine Chaves has been granted a medical discharge from the U.S. Army.

Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Pvt. Elwood Hall from Truax Field, Maddison, Wis., recently spent a two-week furlough with his parents. He will begin a course in radio repair.

AS Donald Perkins is training at Sampson, N.Y. He was a graduate of the HHS Class of '45.

Lt. Ernest Benis, pilot of a flying fortress, is spending a 60-day leave with his parents. He was a German prisoner for 19 months and was liberated April 29th near Nuremberg by one of the units of the 3rd Army. At the end of his leave he will report to Atlantic City for reassignment.

o-o-o

Well, last year at this time the gardens were all drying up because of the lack of rain. Not so this year! They seem right now in danger of begin drowned. However, it will even up in the end and they'll do their regular job of producing all the local tables can use. Strawberries have gone by and now raspberries and blueberries are coming into their own. The kids are getting forty and fifty cents a quart for them - imagine that? You probably can remember when twenty was tops and you got a real thrill out of selling them at that figure. The stores in Brockton are featuring them at fifty-five and sixty but around here as usual, everyone goes out and gets his own. They say the Hockamock is producing a bumper crop. Wonder if there are as many snakes as usual there, too? History says that swamp was one of the great Indian camping grounds. Well -- as far as I'm concerned -- the Indians can have it back again.

"They say" New England is "meat-hungry," etc., at least that is what one reads in the papers. True, there isn't the quantity there used to be on the market counters, but there seems to be plenty of cold cuts, fresh fish, lobsters, clams, etc., as well as eggs, so, with the gardens doing their stuff, we are doing nicely, thank you. Oh, yes, butter by the way has gone back to sixteen points and there is plenty to be had. However, people have become used to margarine and have learned to like it so well, they don't care whether they have butter or not any more. The way it is "fortified" with vitamins and what-not makes it just as good a food as real butter and of course it is a great deal cheaper which is no item to be ignored, is it?

With all the rain we've had lately the mosquitoes are doing right well by themselves, too, this year. As far as they are concerned, no meat shortage exists - you can bet on that!

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FOURTH: The Night-Before has come and gone and made hardly a ripple on the surface of ordinary doings. The week before there was a fire in the Cochesett end of town when the Holyoke house on Church Street was burned. The newspapers said it was of "suspicious origin" (the fire of course - not the house) but, if such was the case, no one has been apprehended or accused of arson so far. It made a beautiful fire and everyone who saw it burning thought it would be completely leveled but they didn't reckon with the West Bridgewater Fire Department. It was on the job in almost no time although the place was blazing all over inside before the alarm was sent in. They worked with the water hose and the chemical putter-outers too and did such a good job that the frame and almost a whole wall are still standing although the place is completely gutted. Everyone said: "Oh, well it'll be the Fourth in a few days and then it will be finished." But the Fourth has come and gone and it still stands. Of course, they had it well-guarded and no one but a fool would try to finish it off. Well who but a fool would start a fire in the first place? You're right - no one!

Outside of that, there was very little doing. A fire of old tires and the dump on Crescent Street was about all. In fact, it was such a celebrationless time that no one would have known it was the Fourth at all except for the calendar. Everyone seems to feel the same about celebrating. They are saving up until you all come home! THAT'LL BE THE DAY!!!!! We can wait because we want the whole gang to join in. INDEPENDENCE DAY has been "the berries" in holidays since good old 1776 but the day this !!*#%?//! war is over will put the Fourth-of-July and Christmas combined right in the shade. SPEED THE DAY!!!

Sincerely,

Your News Committee